

# R E V I E W.

Saturday, August 23. 1712.

**I**T is not unknown to you all, that a light Dis-temper or Indisposition, has generally touch'd the whole Nation; and I believe few Families, from even her Majesty's Household to the meanest Subjects, have been free from it, and that not only here, but in France, Holland, Flanders, and all this part of Europe.

I had not said any Thing more to it, than I did from my Highland Prophecy, if I had not found all the notices which have been taken of it, and the Thing itself also, turn'd into Ridicule and Banter, by the People of this Age; no less than by three different Companies was I accosted in this manner in one day — *Are you one of the Fools that make such an Out-cry, said the first to me, about this little Sickness the People have had among them? What, do you not know it is the Dog-days, and faint Weather, and that we have always something they call the New Distemper at this Time of the Year? And thus they went on, till they thought they had jested it quite off with me*

I had scarce been a quarter of an Hour gone from those, but I met with another — *What, have you heard the Dog-star bark, says he, and has it frighted you into Fits? Pristhee DANIEL, What dost ail? What is the matter that you make such ado about a little Summer Sickness, and disorder the People with Melancholly Notions of the Plague? You are much in the wrong, and it may be of ill Consequence; I wonder the Government does not take notice of you for it!*

In the Evening of the same Day, coming into some very grave Company, they were pleas'd to tell me, *I had got the Hypo; And what is the matter with you? Says one, Old enough to have had more Wit; you have dream't of nothing, I warrant you, but of Graves and Sepulchres this Fortnight — I warrant you, you have bought two or three Bottles of Plague Water to carry into the Country with you — I expected you would not have come Abroad without a Sprig of RUE in your Mouth? And thus he went on, till at last, as all the Company knows, he grew offensively Prophane.*

This added to the Jest of an Eminent Physician, who said publickly some time since, *That if we could but have the Plague here, they should have fine*

*Sport: These Things, I say, extort one Paper or two more from me upon this Serious Subject.*

I do confess, I think it a fitter Text for the Pulpit than the Coffee-House; for a *Sermon* than for the *Review*; and the little notice our Divines have taken of it, is not to me the best Token of that just Concern which I think we should all have about it; I wish those Gentlemen would consider, whether it be worth their notice or no.

I will not say, *nor do I remember, what some affirm*, viz. That we had a shock like this, before the last Dreadful Plague.

I will not undertake to say positively in this Paper, *as my Highland Prophet does in his*, that the Plague shall certainly reach hither next Year; tho' I assuredly expect and believe it, and perhaps on good Grounds too.

But two Things I will recommend to you all to consider, and I think them both very remarkable.

1. That the Plague has now for eight Years past, taken a gradual Course, or kind of Circuit, through a great part of Europe, and every Year it has come a Step nearer and nearer to this Nation, and that if it takes but two Steps more in the same manner, it cannot but reach us effectually.
2. That before the great Plague, Anno 142. when, in a manner, all the World was Ravaged by the greatest and most dreadful Pestilence that ever was known; there was the like Dis-temper, or Mortality, among the Cattle, as has of late Raged in Italy and Germany, and is now spreading into Milan and France.

As to the first Observation, viz. Of the gradual Approach of the Plague, you may look back to the Year 1704, thereabouts we may say it begun: The Turkish Countries of Bulgaria and Walachia, felt its first Fury, tho' I think that very Year it reach'd as far this Way as Cassovia in the Upper Hungaria.

I could trace it back to Constantinople, and the Towns on the Black Sea, where, we are told it Raged before that, but this is Remote.

In 1705, Upper Poland was dreadfully Visted, the City of Cracow Desolated, and it Raged over the

Southern

*Southern Poland*, quite up to the *Ukrain*, and the *Confines of Muscovy and Tartaria*.

In 1706, It came down the *Vistula*, Attack'd *Warsaw*, and the *Lower Poland*, in a Dreadful manner; they Bury'd 16000 People in *Warsaw* only, and the City was almost left empty of People.

In 1707, it came on this Way; *Dantzick* felt the Terrible Visitation, and that to such a degree, as I need not relate, being so fresh in our Memories; I have seen an Account of 51000 People, which, as they said, Perish'd in the City and District of *Dantzick* only.

The next Year, 1708, *Dantzick* not quite free; the Cities of *Riga*, *Thorn*, *Elbing*, *Marienburg* and *Koningsburgh*, were Visited, and from thence (*Riga*) it pass'd over into *Sweden*.

*Stockholm*, and all that part of *Sweden*, suffer'd under it in a lamentable manner all the Year, 1709; and it spread itself in that same Year, and the next, into *Eastergothia* and *Schonen*, where it made like Desolation, *Ann.* 1710; this was a large Step this Way.

In 1711, It came on this side the *Sound*, and seiz'd the City of *Copenhagen* and Isle of *Seeland*, where it Raged with such Fury, that 21500 People Perish'd in the Town, besides those that died at *Elfsenore* and other Parts of the Island; where many whole Villages were entirely Desolated and not any People left alive; and the like on the *Continent*.

This present Year it has made a long stride, and has enter'd *Holstein*, spread itself to *Gluckstat* on the *Elb*, and with the *Danish* Army, is come over that River into the Dutchy of *Bremen*, above an Hundred Mile nearer to us than it was before.

Let any Man tell me, if it makes two such Steps more, how can we be suppos'd to escape? But that which is more terrible yet to reflect on than all this, is, that whatever some may tell us of a like Distemper to ours now forerunning the former Plague, which we had here in 1665, this is certain, that in all the Places aforesaid, they were actually Visited with such a Distemper as this, the very Year before they had the Plague, only with this difference, that it was more Mortal to them than this, God be praised, has been with us.

The Learned Cavillers at this Paper, pretend this is an Unseasonable Discourse, tends to make the People Uneasie, and discourage Trade; I differ from them in the Thing's being Unseasonable, and think

just the contrary; and that as none but a stupid Generation, that scoff at every Judgment of Heaven, as value not their Maker till they feel his Hand, cannot so blind, as not to see the visible Approaches of such Thing to us; so nothing, but a dreadful Indifference in the Event, can make the Hints I have given, Unseasonable. As to the Discouraging Trade, it is but mean Pretence, and not Concern'd in the Thing; the Ruin of our Trade is owing to visible Causes of another kind, and which I shall be more particular hereafter.

I shall make no Theological Inferences, from the Discourse of the Plague, I leave that work to your Ministers, whose Province it is, and from whom, I question, you will better accept it——In me, you will call it Canting, and Preaching, and perhaps mock, rather than improve it to your own Advantage; but that you may learn a little better how to behave yourselves, when such a terrible Stroke should reach you, I shall, in my next, give you a little Sketch or Draft of the dreadful Havock the late Plague made in this City; till then, I conclude with only reminding you of one Thing, *viz.* How thankful we ought all to be, that this general Shock has been so light, that it has been scarce Mortal anywhere; that Death has only given every one of us something like a jog on the Elbow, or a pull by the Sleeve as he pass'd by, *as it were*, to bid us get ready against next time he comes this Way—— A suitable Instruction for which Occasion, you have in the Sacred Text, *Isaiah 59. 9. When the Judgments of God are in the Earth, the Inhabitants of the World will learn Righteousness.*

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